

BLM to round up wild horses, burros for adoption

By Bruce Hills
Deseret News staff writer

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More than 200 wild horses and burros will be captured in Utah this year and put up for adoption, Bureau of Land Management officials announced this week.

Larry Maxfield, coordinator of the bureau's wild-horse program in Utah, said helicopters, trucks and workers on horseback will team up to herd, corral and transport the horses to a facility in Delta where the horses will be examined by a veterinarian, tested for diseases and given a series of vaccinations.

An adoption sale will be held in Delta in late June, Maxfield said, and another sale will be held in West Jordan July 21-22. A wild horse or burro can be adopted for \$125 and, after a year, title to the horse can be obtained.

Maxfield said 110 horses will be herded into pens with the aid of helicopters, and 100 will be trapped at water holes and artificial ponds.

He said the bureau will round up 30 of 400 wild horses from the Hill Creek Herd south of the Book Cliffs or 25 of the 70 horses in the Bonanza Herd southeast of Vernal — depending on which herd is experiencing the worst drought and causing the most problems on private land.

In addition, helicopters will round up 30 of the 160 horses in the Sulfur Herd at the Utah-Nevada border, 25 of 60 horses in the Muddy Creek Herd south of I-70 in Emery County and 25 of 90 burros in the Canyonlands Herd.

Some 100 horses from the Conger's and Swasey's herds in west central Utah will be water-trapped for adoption.

Maxfield said there are about 40,000 to 80,000 wild horses in 11 Western states — most of them in Nevada — and about 10,000 are rounded up for adoption each year. He said there are about 1,900 wild horses and burros in Utah.

"About 1,400 is the right manage-



PHOTOGRAPHY/ BRUCE HILLS

Wild burros taken from their overpopulated home on the range await adoption in West Jordan.

ment level in Utah, but we haven't the funds to round up 500 horses and burros this year. We just hope the numbers don't get out of hand."

In some areas of the West, the reproduction rate for wild horses and burros is more than 20 percent a year, "but it is generally a lot lower in areas where there is insufficient feed and water for the animals.

"We've had a drought in many areas of Utah the past three years or more, and this has affected the wild horses and burros. Some of our roundups are designed to help cut down the number of animals in drought-stricken areas of the state."

Three citizens who attended a hearing on the state's wild-horse program this week at the BLM offices at 324 S. State, Salt Lake City, said they were concerned about the way the BLM is conducting its wild-horse

roundups.

Ken Hansen, Bountiful, who owns a ranch in Utah's West Desert near St. John, Tooele County, said the BLM is not taking enough horses off the range each year.

"There are so many mustangs in the West Desert they are encroaching on private land and even getting onto the highways," he said.

Maxfield said he understands the problem, but, he said, "We don't have the funds to round up any more horses because it costs so much to capture each horse or burro. We can only do what our budget allows."

Dick Williams, a Salt Lake resident who operates a horse-drawn carriage business, said he is concerned about the condition of wild horses. "I hate to think of them suffering because there isn't water or

food enough to keep them in good health."

Carol Eddy of West Weber, Weber County, said she has adopted four wild horses so far and appreciates the blood lines of what she called the Kiger Mesteno breed, or Spanish barbed mustang.

"I would like to see more money spent on the nation's wild-horse program so the horses and burros would be kept in better shape. Then those animals captured for adoption would be in much better health."

She suggested people contact their congressional representative about the problem and ask that more money be spent to care for the horses on the range and to capture more for adoption so herd numbers will not get too large for the available feed and water.

The log is scheduled to be displayed today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the REI Cooperative, 1122 Brickyard Road, and in front of the Salt Palace from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in connection with a concert honoring Yellowstone National Park.

"We're alerting people to the destruction of ancient forests on their public land," said Heather Diefenderfer of Portland, Ore., a forest ecologist.

When settlers first arrived in the Northwest, 70 percent of the region's natural forest was old growth, she said. "Today 10 percent of the forest is in the old growth condition."

The dead giant, nicknamed "the big one," traveled 8,500 miles across 29 states last spring, and visited Utah at that time. Rings on its severed trunk are marked with dates when notable events occurred — the travels of Marco Polo, the signing of the

Declaration of Independence, the end of the Civil War, the election of President Ronald Reagan. The latter was the last mark on the trunk, as it was cut soon afterwards.

The log was purchased from a lumber yard before it could be sawed into boards.

Douglas firs often grow to 300 feet, and the tallest is 350 feet. This one was about average size. The log section on exhibit weighs 15 tons.

Diefenderfer said several animal species depend on old growth, including the spotted owl, pine martin and Pacific giant salamander. Others are associated with it, and while their dependence is suspected, it is not included.

"Forests are not a renewable resource," she said. "Trees may be."

truck to check its growth rings. "We've used 90-plus percent of all the trees," he said. "These old trees are important. Not just for the spotted owls, but really because they represent a lot of our cultural and spiritual values, and provide, of course, much of the world's supply of oxygen."

Owens added, speaking of old growth, "I think we've got to protect it." He believes a bill to protect ancient trees may pass because the issue seems to be catching on.

Still, he warned, logging interests have powerful friends in Congress.

"When you hear about the spotted owl and about environmentalists in the Northwest," said Andrew Rodman of Portland, Ore., "you kind of get the impression there's a war going on. Well, there is. But what we're fighting is for the last 10 percent of the native forest."



Keith Hammer and Wayne Owens

S. Jordan will pay tax on City Hall land

SOUTH JORDAN — City officials have decided to pay a \$14,735 property tax bill for City Hall property rather than continue what they view as a hopeless cause.

City officials had protested the tax bill that was incurred by the property's former owners but was unresolved when the city purchased the property through a bankruptcy sale.

County officials contended they had no power to dismiss the outstanding bill and threatened to put the property on the tax-sale roll.

"I think our people (city elected officials) are bitter and feel the city has been discriminated against," said City Administrator Richard Warne. "We don't think we are wrong, but you can spend a lot of money trying to prove you are right."

Warne said it's a David and Goliath situation with the county and its large legal and support staff in a position to delay the matter indefinitely at little or no cost.

USU dean is 1st to join Educators Hall of Fame

Oral L. Ballam, dean of the College of Education at Utah State University, has the distinction of being the first inductee into the Utah Educators Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame, located in the Educational Resource Center in the Emma Eccles Jones Education Building at USU, is sponsored by the five statewide chapters of Phi Delta Kappa. PDK chapters in Southern Utah, Salt Lake City and Ogden, at Brigham Young University, as well as the USU chapter, nominated Utah educators.

Nominees exemplified commitment to quality education and improvement of the profession. Each was required to have 20 years of experience in education, 10 in Utah.

Ballam came to USU in 1963 as an associate professor of education after 12 years as teacher, principal and superintendent in the Cache School District. He has been dean of the College of Education more than 20 years.

He was honored by Phi Delta Kappa for devotion to making education accessible to all people. "Oral Ballam's energetic, dynamic way of getting things done has served education at a state and national level very well," friends wrote in a citation read at the induction. "He exemplifies the attitude of continual learning throughout one's lifetime."

The idea to create a hall of fame began several years ago with James Blair serving as president of the USU PDK chapter.

Magistrate that he was

By Joe Costanzo
Deseret News staff writer

After six months of deliberation, U.S. Judge Sam Andrews has rejected death-row inmate Boyce's contention that he was denied a fair trial.

Boyce's 70-page opinion recommends Andrews' death-sentence appeal, which will be argued in coming weeks by U.S. District Judge

Depending upon Sam's decision, the appeals process will take Andrews to the 10th Circuit Court in Denver.

Andrews and Pierre Dale Selby were convicted in the 1974 Ogden Hi-Fi Shop torture-killing. Selby was executed by lethal injection in 1984, whose appeals lagged behind Selby's, have now longer than any other inmate in the state.

Boyce issued his recommendation Thursday, but it was not available to attorneys on Thursday until Friday morning.

Special prosecutor Robert Wallace said in his recommendation, "It is entirely appropriate and proper that Judge Sam adopts the recommendation."

He also said Boyce's opinion — "which is lengthy and well considered" — "may lead to a more lenient sentence."

